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NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Since it has been several months without administrator comments in the newsletter, Mary keeps threatening to do damaging things to me if I don't write something--and NOW!

I have been Acting Administrator for two months, and the time has flown by very quickly. I have found that there is a lot going on and DES is a very busy place, even though we have been tagged "the Cribbage Capitol of Montana."

As "Acting" Administrator I am filling in, on a temporary basis, until MG Blair appoints someone as permanent Administrator. As such, I cannot make any major policy and/or directional changes. I must, however, insure that we complete those things that need to be completed and provide the best possible disaster and emergency services to the Great People of Montana.

I am thoroughly impressed with the DES people I have met. The people in the State DES Division are all truly dedicated professionals and all they need is a positive, friendly working environment wherein they can "be all they can be." Becoming a member of this team has indeed been a rewarding experience. We have operated together through major fires, floods and emergency snow removal efforts. We have completed a Survivable Crisis Management proposal and got it approved. We are on track with the State EOP and will complete all drafting by June 30, 1991. We are completing position descriptions and we will followup with a performance evaluation system. We are preparing for legislative budget hearings, and testimony as required. And last, but not least, all efforts to plan, organize, and conduct the 1991 Governor's Conference are on track.

Now you see why I say everything has been busy. I have tried for three weeks to receive desk top briefings so that I can tell the difference between PPP, EP and EMA--or any of the other million acronyms.

I have met several local DES coordinators and I am thoroughly impressed. Bear with me as we progress in our team building efforts. I will ask some hard, pointed questions, but I need your frank, professional answers. As I learn more about the various programs, I will meet with the District Representatives and visit some DES coordinators, county/city commissioners and officials. Of course, I look forward to meeting and working with you all at the Governor's Conference. My goal, however, is to meet each of you in your place of business and meet your county DES team members.

I have met many of the FEMA, Region 8 personnel and they have offered to help in any way they can. I plan to spend a great deal of time with them to insure that we are all on the same team.

We also have a great working relationship with Governor Stephens and all of the officials in his office. I have also seen some real professionals in the agencies and departments with which we work.

This job has untold opportunities. It is the best job in the state because we are people, working with people, to serve people. I am happy to be involved in these opportunities. I enjoy working with the DES team.

-Bill Good

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

The Governor's Conference on Disaster Preparedness for Public Officials is scheduled for February 12, 1991 at the Colonial Inn in Helena. Other meetings that will be held in conjunction with this conference are the Montana Association of Counties Midwinter meeting,

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Disaster and Emergency Services workshops and the winter meeting of the Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators.

With the Montana Legislature in town, motel rooms will be hard to find in Helena. The deadline for reserving rooms at the reimbursement rate is long past. If you don't have a reservation, we will do our best to find a place for you.

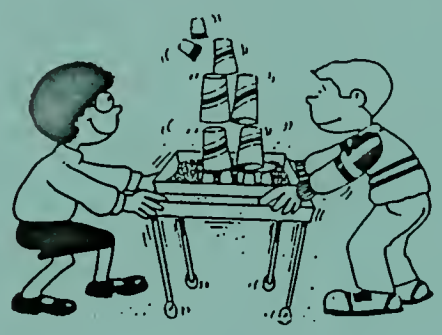
Along with all of the interesting meetings there will be some opportunities for mingling. Montana DES is sponsoring a no-host social during conference registration Tuesday night. We will also be giving a banquet Wednesday night after the Governor's Conference. You are all invited and encouraged to attend all of the functions. See you soon!

-Mary Arnold

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division is supporting two bills that will be introduced during this legislative session. One of the bills promotes earthquake preparedness in schools. The other bill allows the state to recoup funds after a disaster.

Representative Beverly Barnhart, House District 80, is introducing legislation requiring school districts in seismic risk zones to develop earthquake emergency plans. The bill proposes development of a program to train student and staff on earthquake emergency procedures. The emergency procedures include earthquake drills and evacuations.



School districts within Seismic Zone 3 will be directly affected by this legislation. Seismic Zone 3 includes: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Powell and Silver Bow counties. Schools in Seismic Zones 1 and 2 are encouraged to develop plans and hold drills, but will not be required to participate.

Representative Scott McCullough, House District 96, is introducing amending legislation to Title 10, Chapter 3, Section 312, Montana Code Annotated. This section of state law authorizes the Governor to expend up to $2 million per biennium from the General Fund for declared disasters. The amending legislation would restore the Governor's disaster spending authority when funds are recovered after a disaster.

The purpose of the Governor's Emergency and Disaster Fund, as this spending authority is commonly known, is to assist individuals and local governments after declared disasters. Expenditures from the fund could easily deplete the spending authority. This legislation will help maintain the fund by restoring the spending authority in the amount recovered, up to the original $2 million.

-Chris Christensen

STAFFORD ACT WORKSHOP

A three-hour workshop on the federal disaster legislation, PL 100-707 (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act), will be held during the Emergency Management Workshops. The major objectives of this workshop are to show the importance of accurate and timely situation reporting, local effort documentation and damage assessment as they relate to the declaration process and Federal Recovery Programs.

Major changes in the Public Assistance Program will be highlighted during an applicant briefing to be conducted during the workshop.

All DES Coordinators are reminded to bring their Local Government Disaster Information Manual to the workshop as it will be the primary document used in this course of instruction.

-Bob Musselman

INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Introduction to Emergency Management is a four-and-one-half day orientation for people with emergency management responsibilities. The course is being held at Coach House East in Helena on March 11-15, 1991.

The purpose of this course is to assist participants in becoming productive members of the emergency management system within their communities. At the conclusion of the course, participants will be able to: understand the variety of physical and human factors related to disasters and emergencies, interpret the relationships of individuals and organizations within the system, recognize the importance of a team approach to emergency management and develop a personal action plan.

For further information, contact your local DES Coordinator, your District Representative or this office at 444-6911.

-NancyJo Ilminen

HAZMAT RESOURCES

The Montana Power Company (MPC) has a small stockpile of oil spill clean-up material and equipment. These resources are located at each of their dams and at their environmental garage in Butte. MPC has offered the use of these materials if the state or a local jurisdiction needs the items during an emergency. However, the supply used by the state or local jurisdiction must be returned to MPC in-kind, as soon as possible.

To access this resource the local jurisdiction must contact the dam supervisor to make arrangements for delivery and replacement. Telephone numbers can be obtained from individual MPC dam Emergency Action Plans or the state Disaster and Emergency Services office.

The following are Montana Power Company owned dams:

Black Eagle, Chochrane, Morony, Rainbow, Ryan (Cascade County)
Hebgen (Gallatin County)
Flint Creek (Granite County)
Kerr (Lake County)
Hauser, Holter (Lewis & Clark)
Madison (Madison County)
Milltown (Missoula County)
Thompson Falls (Sanders County)
Mystic (Stillwater County)

-Dan Lieberg

RADEF REPORT

Last summer the state DES district boundaries were redesigned for several reasons. None of the reasons were because of RADEF. The previous boundaries were ideal from a RADEF standpoint.

"Why?" you ask.

Because the old boundaries fit into our FEMA-mandated, four-year cycle for instrument exchange. The districts were divided, almost equally, into an equal number of jurisdictions.

Well, what is good ol' RADEF going to do about this dilemma? Nothing! We will continue to exchange instruments, update plans, provide local training and exercising based on the old district boundaries. We will be working in the old District 4 [this] federal fiscal year (FFY) '91, old District 2 in FFY '92,

old (and new) District 1 in FFY '93 and old District 3 in FFY '94.

If you're confused, don't worry, because I am, too. I am not going to fret, however, because we have district representatives who will keep us all straight.

Jim Brown and I are looking forward to working with you this year, District 4.

-Dan Lieberg

POWER TRAINING

Recently the Montana Power Company requested training assistance from the State Emergency Response Commission Training Committee through the State DES office. Montana Power Company identified a need to train their field personnel so that in emergency conditions they will be able to plug into local incident command systems.

Trainers representing the SERC Training Committee will conduct several courses for Montana Power Company.

These courses are designed for emergency response and utility company personnel. Participants will apply incident management concepts and systems to incidents involving natural gas and electrical facilities.

These one-day courses, beginning at 8:30 a.m., will be hosted by the Montana Power Company. The schedule of courses is:

February	19 Bozeman
	20 Billings
	26 Helena
	27 Great Falls
March	5 Butte
	6 Missoula
	12 Kalispell

-Chris Christensen

EARTHQUAKES AND US

A $19,500 grant has been secured to provide three workshops on the Tremor Troop earthquake curriculum for grades K-6. (Refer to related article in the November DES Newsletter.)

These two-day workshops, to be held at Montana Tech in the spring, will provide three exciting training sessions for thirty school teachers and administrators from throughout the State.

There will be instruction in the basics of geology and seismology, Montana's risk from earthquakes, safety and preparedness for earthquakes and sessions on using the Tremor Troop package in the classroom.

For more information, including application details, please contact Nina Klein at the Math/Science Resource Center, Montana Tech, Butte 59701 or 496-4289. Deadline for application is March 1st. Those chosen to participate will be notified in mid-March.

-Gretchen Bingman

IMA TO THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

The Individual Mobilization Augmentees assigned to DES throughout Montana will attend the 24th Annual Governor's Conference. These people are military reservists used in emergency management at all levels of government. The IMA program is available to all DES organizations.

A separate training session, that includes a training exercise, will be held Thursday February 14 for the IMAs at the State EOC. This session will used to update the policies and procedures to be used by the IMAs. Having the IMAs at the Governor's

Conference will be an excellent opportunity for DES coordinators to discuss the concept and benefits of using this program. All of the IMAs will be easy to spot as they will be in military uniforms.

The most recent addition to the IMA program is the new FEMA/IMA newsletter. That newsletter will be sent to all of the Individual Mobilization Augmentees in early February.

-Chris Christensen

EXERCISE DESIGN COURSE

The Exercise Design Course is a 20-hour course with lectures and group discussion, led by the instructional staff. A substantial portion of the program is based upon student participation in simulations and number of group activities.

Through hands-on training, participants will be able to: assess personal and community capabilities in regard to exercising; develop a progressive exercise program while learning the steps and skills necessary to conduct exercises; participate in a simulation which teaches decision-making skills; practice developing the scenario, messages, evaluation, and follow-up to an exercise.

The course is being held at the Park Inn (formally Yogo Inn) in Lewistown, April 24-26, 1991. For further information, contact your local DES Coordinator or this office at 444-6911.

-NancyJo Ilminen

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Gary Fjelstad, former Treasure County DES and Sheriff, has moved to Rosebud County. Gary will be working as a deputy sheriff there.

Jim McCauley, Jefferson County DES coordinator and county commissioner, has ended his term in office. Jim did a great deal to promote emergency management in Jefferson County. His efforts during the 1988 fires in the Elkhorn Mountains were exceptional.

James Stout is the new DES coordinator in Jefferson County. Mr. Stout is also a county commissioner.

Reba Falk, Ravalli County DES, has resigned as of January 24th. Reba was always able to keep the important things in perspective. Her sharp wit and clear thinking will be missed throughout the DES community.

Bob Busenbark, Petroleum County DES, is currently on active duty with his Army Reserve Unit. You can send a card, letter or other goodies to Bob at this address:

SFC Robert R. Busenbark
516-60-5024
889th Service and Supply Company
Operation Desert Shield
APO, New York 09750

Bill Bishop requested each of you who write ask Bob where the Petroleum County quarterly report is. Chuck, you should write twice!

Several issues back we erroneously reported that Jeanne Portwine, Powder River County DES, had resigned. We have it on good authority that Jeanne is alive, well and DESing in and around Broadus.

OPINIONS, PLEASE!

Please let us know what you think of our newsletter. Should we return to a quarterly publication? Are there old features you miss? Tell us!!

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STAN STEPHENS
GOVERNOR

GARY C. BLAIR
ADJUTANT GENERAL

WILLIAM K. GOOD, JR.
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy.

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